

## DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE BILL ANALYSIS

**AMENDMENT DATE:** April 26, 2011  
**POSITION:** Neutral  
**SPONSOR:** Soledad Enrichment Action

**BILL NUMBER:** SB 298  
**AUTHOR:** K. De Leon

### **BILL SUMMARY:** Charter Schools: At-Risk Pupils: Los Angeles County

This bill would extend authority for the Soledad Enrichment Action (SEA) school to be operated as a charter school under the Los Angeles County Board of Education and receive funding at a county community school rate until June 30, 2018. Current statute sunsets this designation as of June 30, 2013.

### **FISCAL SUMMARY**

This bill would not result in additional Proposition 98 General Fund costs. The bill would allow the SEA to receive a higher alternative education funding rate than the charter school rate they would otherwise receive. However, the SEA serves a high-risk population that would otherwise be served through traditional alternative schools, such as community day schools, county community schools, or juvenile court schools that receive the higher funding rate.

### **COMMENTS**

The Department of Finance is neutral on this bill for the following reasons:

- The bill would allow a charter school providing services to some of the most at-risk students in Los Angeles County to continue to operate a program tailored specifically to the needs of the community.
- The bill is cost neutral, in that these students would otherwise be served in other alternative schools where they would be funded at the same per average daily attendance rate as is allowed for the SEA under the bill.

The SEA began in 1972 as a county community school operated by the Los Angeles County Office of Education. The SEA serves at risk and expelled students in grades nine through twelve and specializes in helping students catch-up on class work and return to their regular school or complete their high school education at the SEA. In 1997, legislation was passed that allowed the SEA to be chartered by the Los Angeles County Board of Education and continue to receive the higher alternative education funding rate. This special status has been extended in five year increments since it was first passed. The rationale for this additional funding is that the SEA serves a high-risk population that would otherwise be served in other alternative schools. The SEA operates as a charter school to ensure greater flexibility in serving the needs of this population.

Code/Department Agency or Revenue Type	SO	(Fiscal Impact by Fiscal Year)							
	LA	(Dollars in Thousands)							
	CO	PROP							Fund
	RV	98	FC	2011-2012	FC	2012-2013	FC	2013-2014	Code
6110/Dept of Educ	LA	Yes	-----	No/Minor Fiscal Impact -----				0001	

Analyst/Principal (0320) E. Wynne	Date	Program Budget Manager Nick Schweizer	Date
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Department Deputy Director	Date
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Governor's Office:	By:	Date:	Position Approved _____
			Position Disapproved _____

**BILL ANALYSIS** Form DF-43 (Rev 03/95 Buff)

